

5. (Amended) The bending apparatus for at least one glass sheet according to Claim 1, wherein each heating element of the second group of heating elements has a heater wire and an equally heating plate provided at the heating face side of the heater wire.

8. (Amended) The method of bending at least one glass sheet according to Claim 6, wherein the second group of heating elements are suspended from a ceiling inner wall of the heating furnace and disposed at a position opposed to the upper surface of the glass sheet to provide a predetermined temperature distribution on the glass sheet.

9. (Amended) The method of bending at least one glass sheet according to Claim 6, wherein a distance between the second group of heating elements and the inner wall surface of the heating furnace is variable to provide a predetermined temperature distribution on the glass sheet.

10. (Amended) The method of bending at least one glass sheet according to Claim 6, wherein the bending mold having the glass sheet placed thereon is intermittently conveyed so as to stop at each section in the heating furnace.

(Please add new Claims 11-22 as follows:)

11. (New) The bending apparatus for at least one glass sheet according to Claim 2, wherein the second group of heating elements are suspended from a ceiling inner wall of the heating furnace at a position opposed to the upper surface of the glass sheet.

12. (New) The bending apparatus for at least one glass sheet according to Claim 2, wherein a distance between the second group of heating elements and the inner wall surface of the heating furnace is variable.

13. (New) The bending apparatus for at least one glass sheet according to Claim 2, wherein each heating element of the second group of heating elements has a heater wire and an equally heating plate provided at the heating face side of the heater wire.

wherein the second group of heating elements are suspended from a ceiling inner wall of the heating furnace and disposed at a position opposed to the upper surface of the glass sheet to provide a predetermined temperature distribution on the glass sheet.

15. (New) The method of bending at least one glass sheet according to Claim 7, wherein a distance between the second group of heating elements and the inner wall surface of the heating furnace is variable to provide a predetermined temperature distribution on the glass sheet.

16. (New) The method of bending at least one glass sheet according to Claim 7, wherein the bending mold having the glass sheet placed thereon is intermittently conveyed so as to stop at each section in the heating furnace.

17. (New) The bending apparatus for at least one glass sheet according to Claim 3, wherein a distance between the second group of heating elements and the inner wall surface of the heating furnace is variable.

18. (New) The bending apparatus for at least one glass sheet according to Claim 3, wherein each heating element of the second group of heating elements has a heater wire and an equally heating plate provided at the heating face side of the heater wire.

19. (New) The method of bending at least one glass sheet according to Claim 8, wherein a distance between the second group of heating elements and the inner wall surface of the heating furnace is variable to provide a predetermined temperature distribution on the glass sheet.

20. (New) The method of bending at least one glass sheet according to Claim 8, wherein the bending mold having the glass sheet placed thereon is intermittently conveyed so as to stop at each section in the heating furnace.

21. (New) The bending apparatus for at least one glass sheet according to Claim 4, wherein each heating element of the second group of heating elements has a heater wire and an equally heating plate provided at the heating face side of the heater wire.

22. (New) The method of bending at least one glass sheet according to Claim 9, wherein the bending mold having the glass sheet placed thereon is intermittently conveyed so as to stop at each section in the heating furnace.

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

A desired temperature distribution is efficiently formed on a glass sheet by a simple structure without lowering heat efficiency within a furnace. A heating furnace conveys a bending mold of a glass sheet and a radiation-heating device is provided in the heating furnace. A first group of a plurality of heating elements are fixed on an inner wall surface of the heating furnace. A second group of a plurality of heating elements are disposed separably from an inner wall surface of the heating furnace.